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135 LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATORS GRATEFUL FOR FUNDING

Dear Editor:

I appreciate this opportunity to use The Observer editorial section as a means to thank the South Carolina Legislature for attaining \$1,500 funding requested by the Silver Haired Legislature for printing and other expenses. Also, my gratitude to Lt. Governor Andre Bauer for his hard work to get the bill passed after the Governor vetoed it. Lt. Governor called or personally visited many of your legislators to garner support for this request.

The Silver Haired Legislature was created in 1999 for "bringing together the wisdom and experience of older South Carolinians." The group develops recommendations for legislation for the Governor and General Assembly. All members are volunteers who have decided to give of their time and talents to improve the lives of SC seniors. The group is broken down into 10 area caucus assemblies with several counties in each group.

Since 1999, over 80 resolutions have been sent to the General Assembly. One such resolution passed was an incentive program to recruit physicians to South Carolina. Now South Carolina is the only state in the nation to offer a loan forgiveness program to geriatric physicians. Twelve physicians are now practicing in our state. Also, a SHL resolution requesting increased funding for in-home and community-based services was passed. The Lt. Governor's Office on Aging received \$1.4 million in non-recurring funds for these services. This funding will increase the number of meals on wheels and other services to more seniors than in the past.

2008 Resolutions affecting state seniors are now being considered for submission to the Governor and General Assembly. The SC Silver Haired Legislature takes pride in representing and advocating on behalf of 651,000 South Carolina seniors.

Margaret Brackett
Silver Haired Legislator,
Central Midlands Caucus
Newberry

County:
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